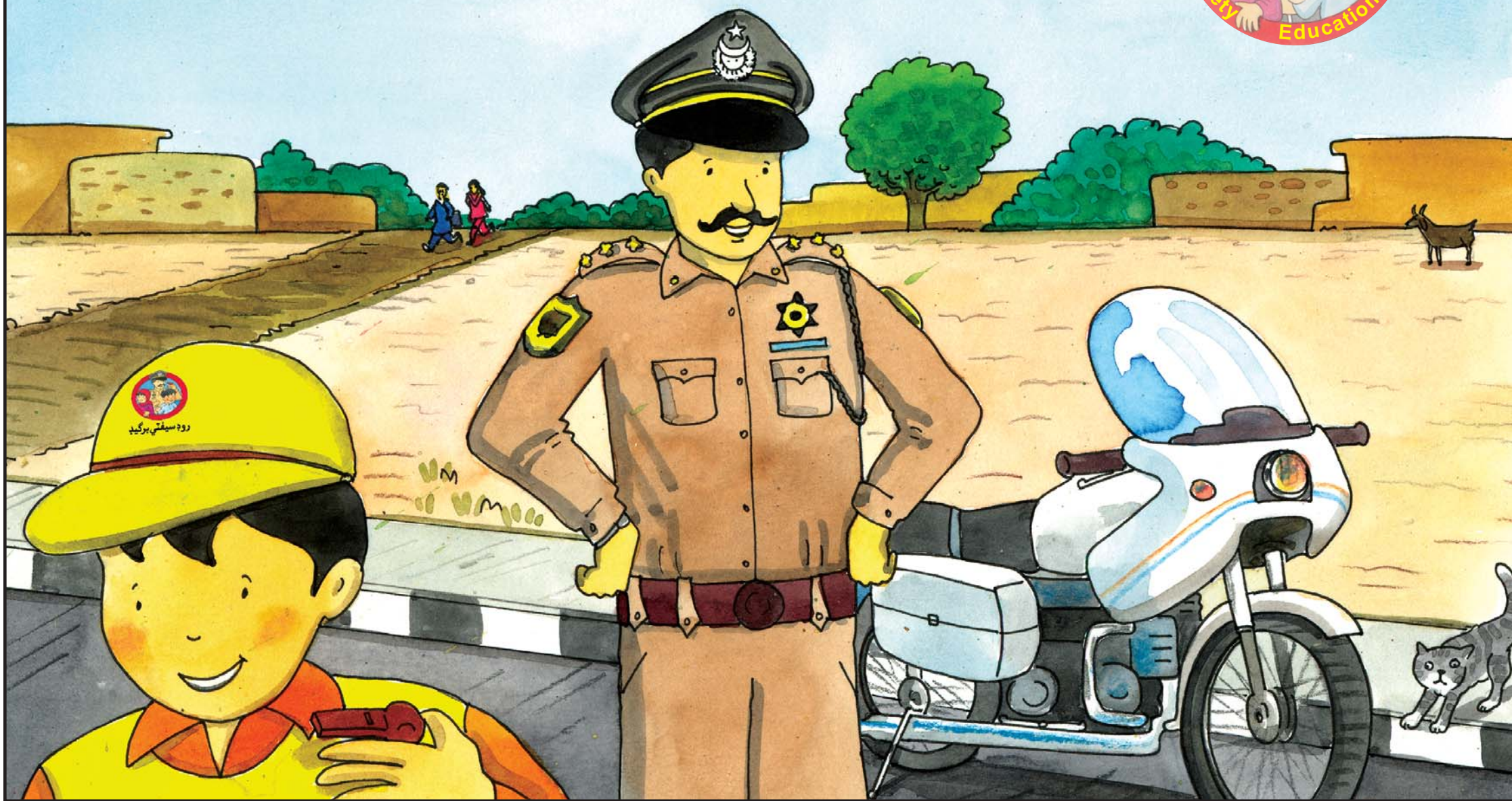


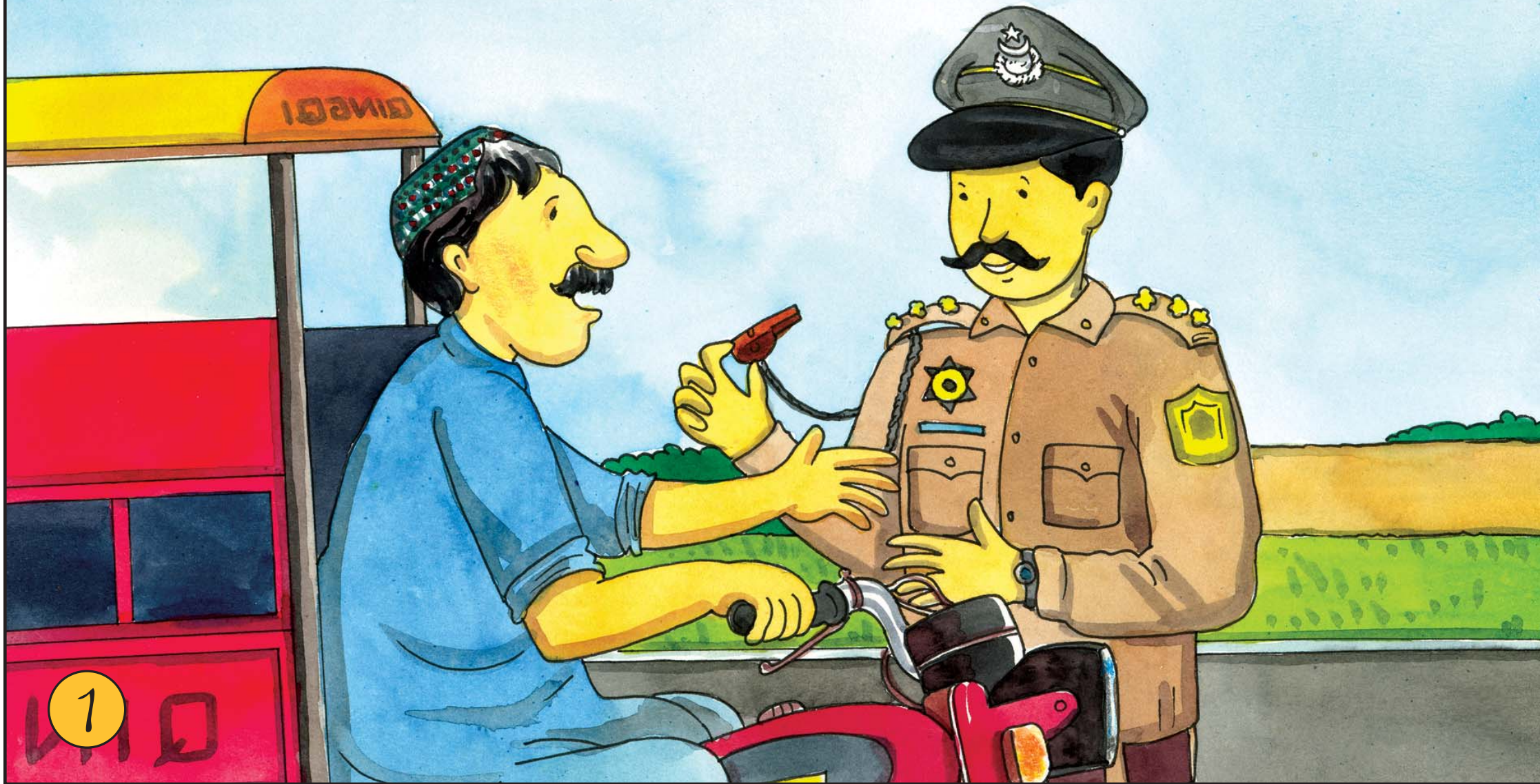
# Who is the Stranger in the Village?

Road Safety Stories for Children





It happened one morning when the children were on their way to school. They saw Mama Molu – the village chingchi driver - talking to a strangely dressed man on the side of the road. The man was strangely dressed because he was wearing a uniform, brown and black with badges and a strange looking hat. The children also noticed that the man's uniform was adorned with different badges and stars, all of them shining in the summer sun. They wondered who he could be.



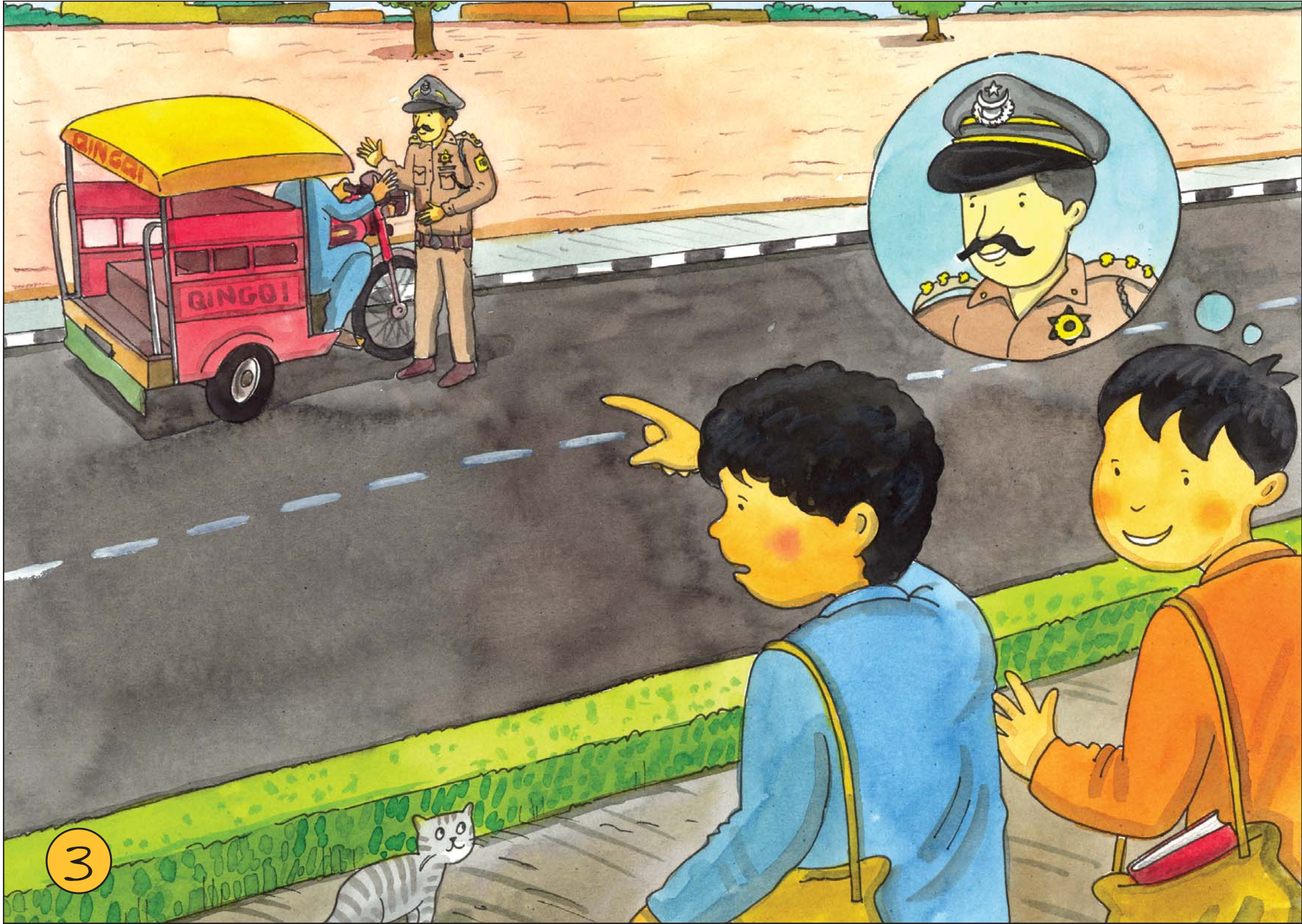


"It looks like someone is trying to tell Mama Molu how he should drive his chingchi," said little Bilal. "Maybe it's a new kind of chingchi driver."

"Don't be silly Bilal," said his elder brother. Why would a man in a uniform want to drive a chingchi. He seems like a soldier, maybe even a fighter pilot. Maybe he has brought his airplane somewhere and is asking Mama Molu for directions. Let's go to school and tell the others."









And so the word spread amongst all the children that there was a pilot in the village who had even brought his plane. But Raju was not to believe something so easily.

"Where is he?" asked Raju. "And I don't see his plane anywhere."

"There he is!" cried out Bilal. There is the pilot standing on the side of the road.

Raju looked towards where Bilal was pointing. "O Bilal! That's not a pilot. Not even a soldier. That's a road safety officer," said Raju

"A road safety officer? What does he do? Does he fly planes on the road?" asked Bilal with a confused look on his face. He really had no clue.

"I know what a road safety officer does. My uncle in the city is a road safety officer. He has to make sure that people use the roads safely. People who drive on the roads, people who ride their cycles, people who walk on the roads, everyone. The road safety officer helps everyone use roads safely, especially children," replied Raju.

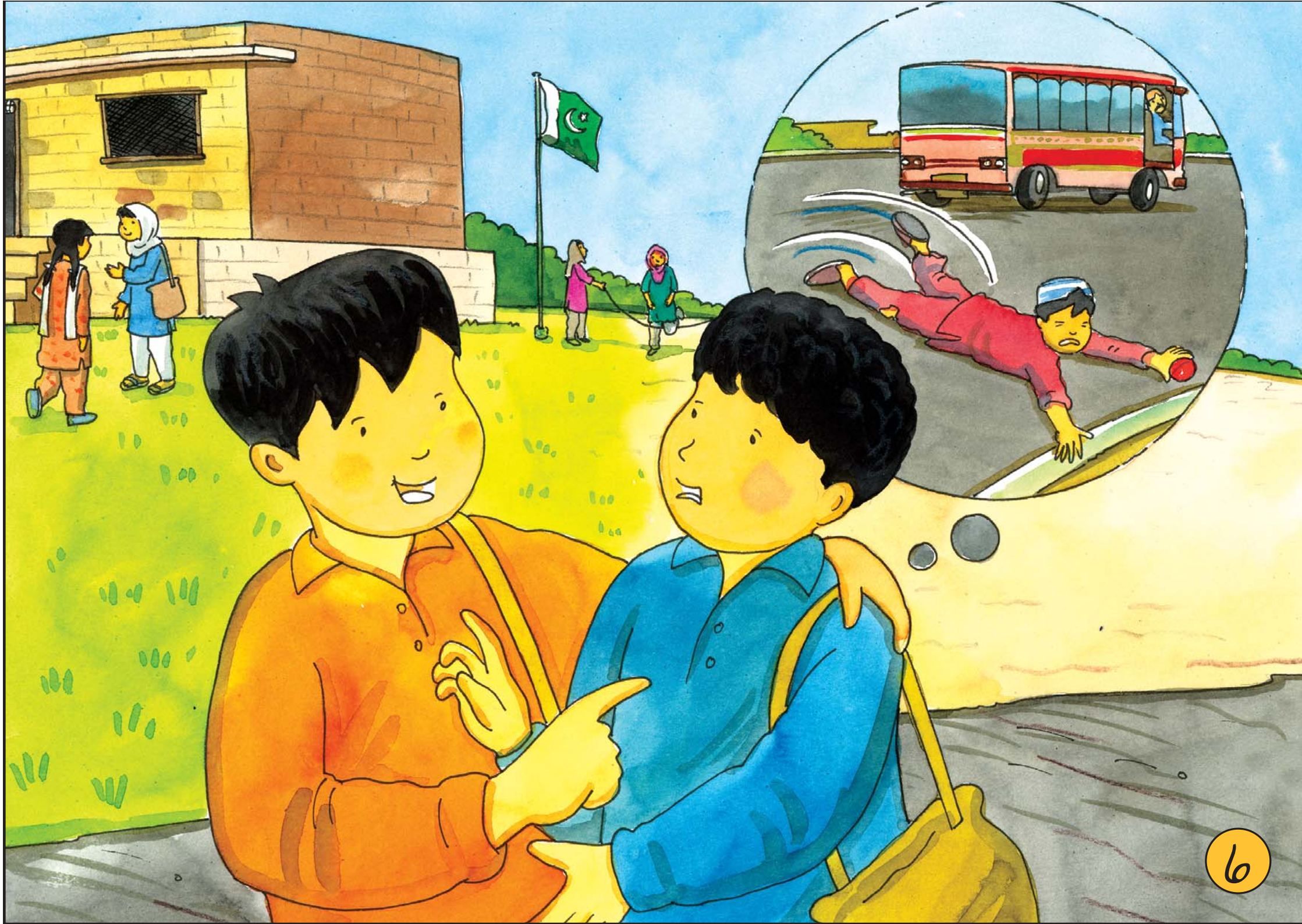
"But I've never been hurt crossing the road, I don't need help," replied Bilal.

"You may not have gotten hurt, but I remember my uncle once telling me that children need the most help when using the road," said Raju with firm authority. "Children, especially the young ones don't really obey traffic rules; they usually run across the road rather than looking around for traffic. And even you know how many children play near the road. Don't you think that's dangerous?" He really felt he knew what he was talking about.

"You're right you know," Bilal said. "I do remember once when Ali was playing near the road and he did not look before crossing and a bus almost crashed into him. You are right, maybe having a road safety officer in the village can help everyone."

"I know Bilal. Everyone needs to learn about how to keep themselves safe on the road, especially with so many busses, cars and trucks whizzing by at full speed," Raju said. "I think we should go talk to him to know what he is doing in our village."

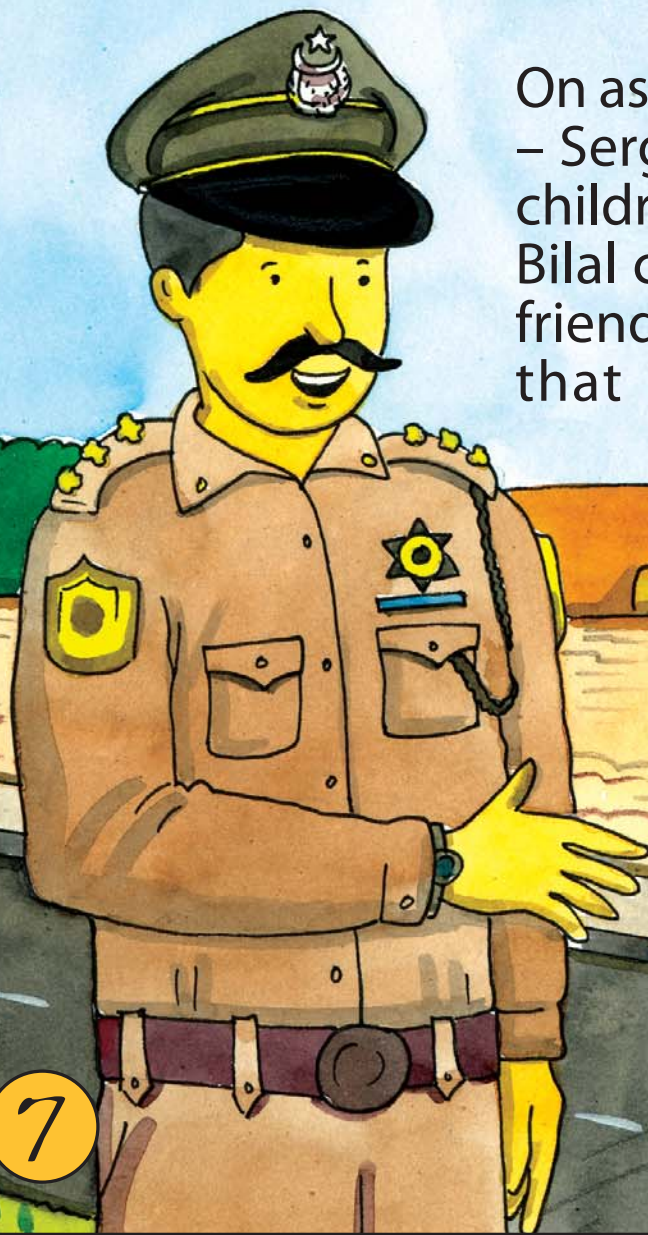






So the two boys went up to the officer. He had a friendly face with a big moustache. And rather than flying a plane, he had a big white motorcycle next to where he was standing. Plus, he had a whistle in his pocket, just like his uncle had one. Raju was right; this man was a road safety officer.

On asking a few questions, the children learnt that the officer – Sergeant Bahadur – had come to the village to teach the children of the school a few lessons on road safety. Raju and Bilal could not contain their excitement. The officer was so friendly and so nice that they wanted to tell all their friends that they met the pilot everyone was talking about.

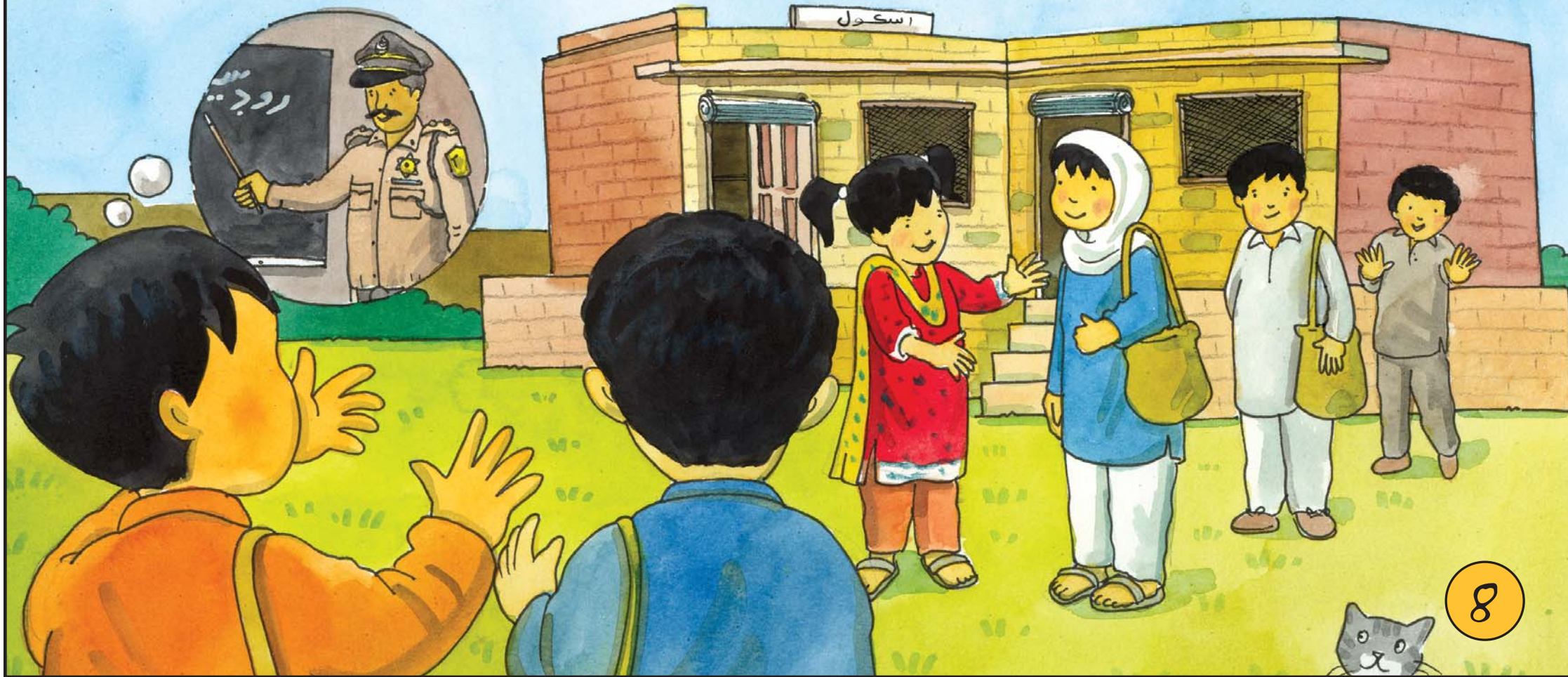




So they dashed to their school the next day and told everyone about what happened the other day.

“He’s coming to our school?” asked one child.

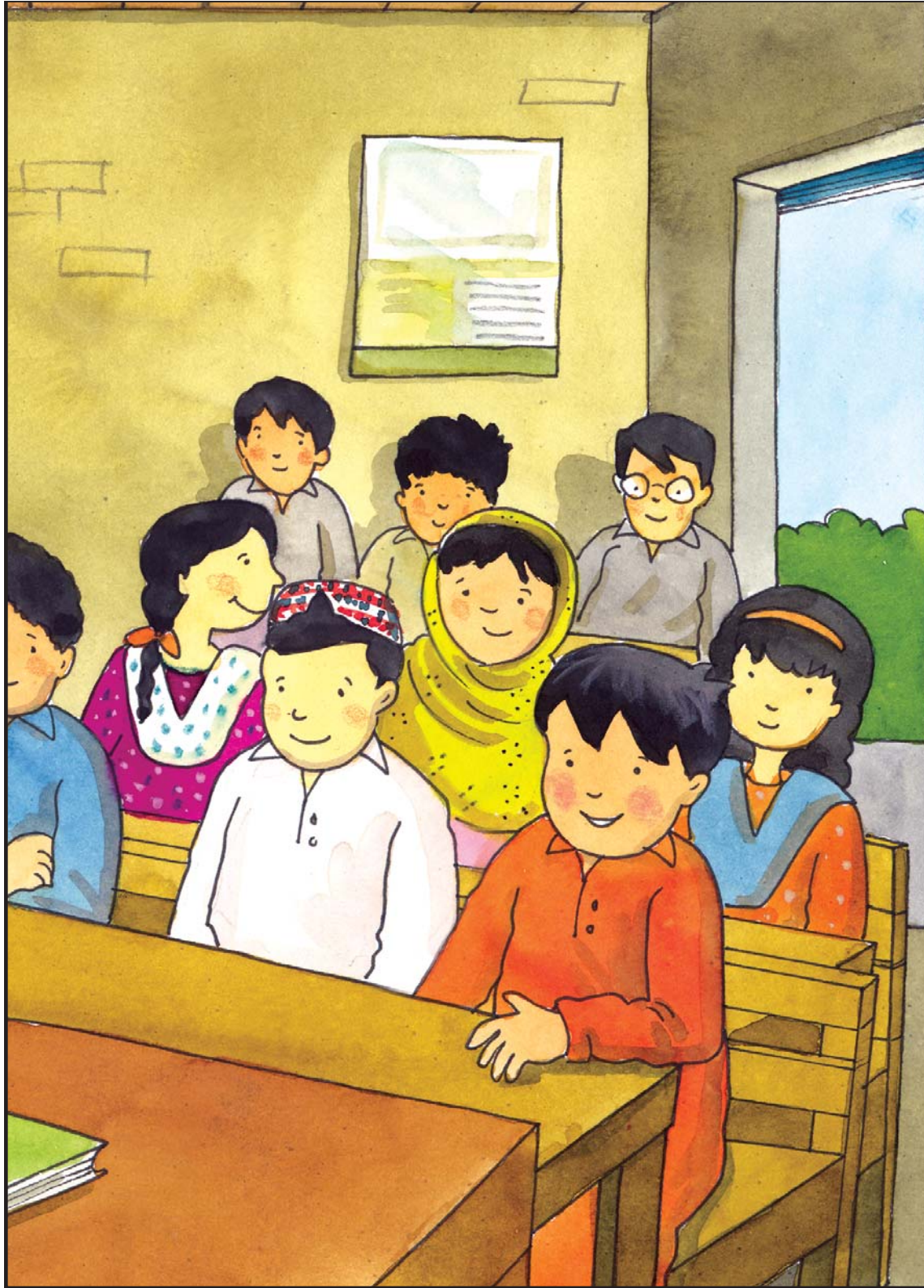
“A road safety officer? Wow I can’t wait what he will teach us,” said another. The children just couldn’t contain their excitement.











During the middle of the day when the children had gone through half their classes their teacher informed them of a guest that had come to the school. By that time word had spread amongst all grades throughout the school about the officer making an appearance to the school. So the children already knew who the teacher was talking about.

“Now children, we have a very special guest today. So I want you to be at your best and to listen attentively. This guest will teach you a lot about how to take care of yourself on the road. Now you all know how dangerous it is to play near the road or to cross the road without looking. Most of you may even know friends or family members who have had an unfortunate accident. Well today Sergeant Bahadur from the city will teach you how to avoid such accidents and be a road safe student.”







The children all stood up and loudly greeted the guest they had all been waiting for. They were all excited to see Sergeant Bahadur. After greeting the children back, he told them a lot about road safety and how important it was for children, especially for those who live and spend their day near the roads, may it be working or playing or going to school, to learn about road safe rules. Sergeant Bahadur also told the children that road rules were not only simple to learn but also very helpful in keeping yourself away from road injuries and accidents. All the children listened attentively because they knew that they could learn a lot of important things from Sergeant Bahadur.

"Wow," said one child. "He seems so smart in that uniform."

"I wish I could be a road safety officer when I grow up," replied Raju.

Sergeant Bahadur overheard Raju. He called Raju towards the front of the class and said, "this boy has given me a great idea. From now onwards you children too can be road safety officers."

The children's eyes grew wide open. Now they were really listening. Even Raju was surprised.

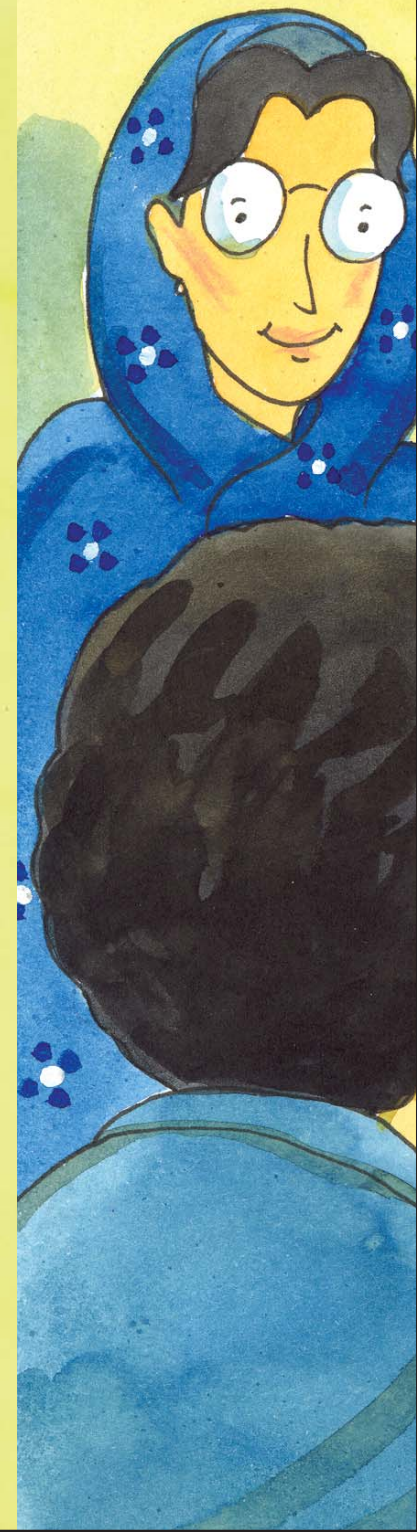


"Let's make it this way. Every fortnight a student gets selected who will be the road safety officer for those 2 weeks. His duties will be to help everyone cross the road before and after school and to generally take care of all the students who use the road."

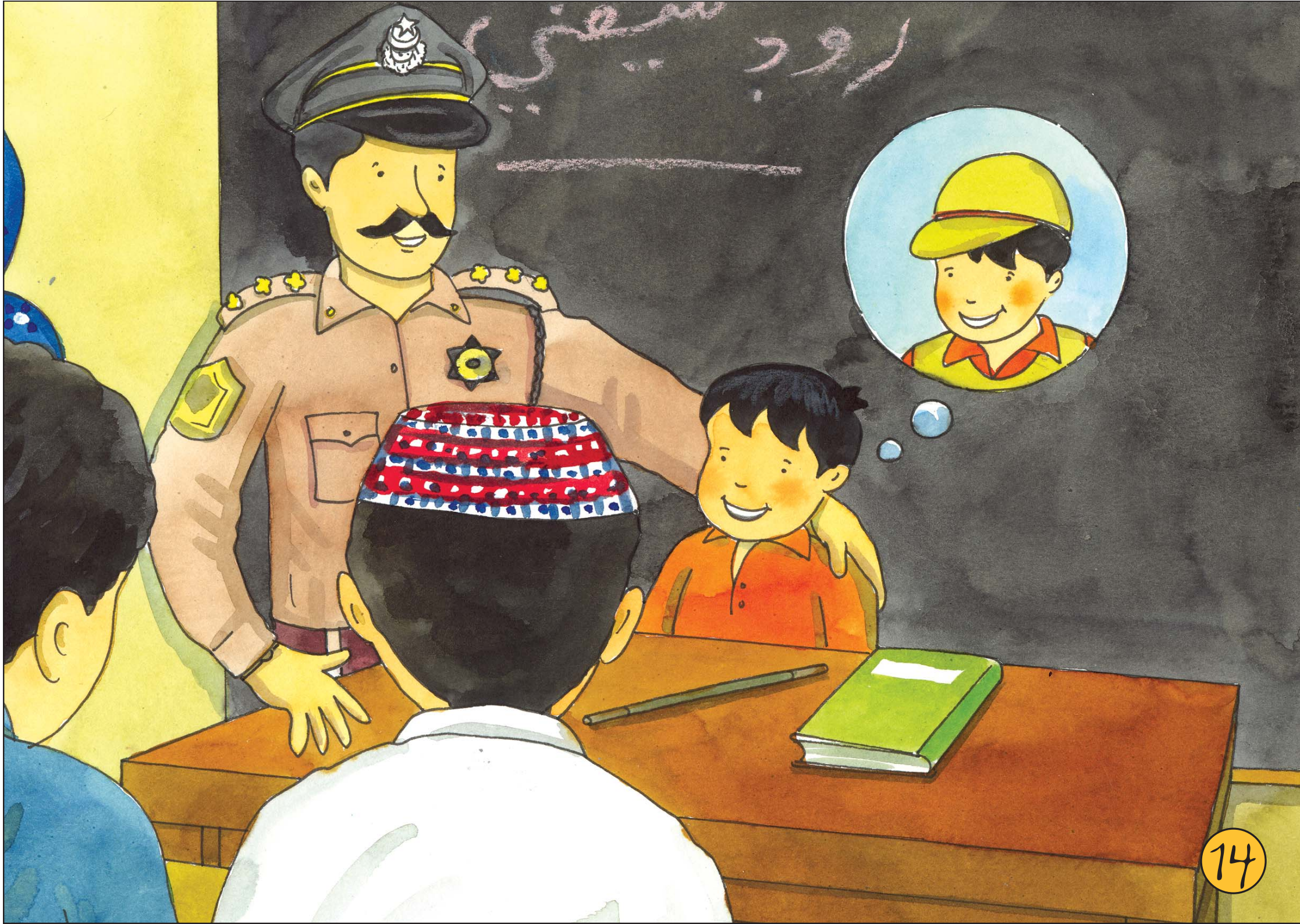
The children clapped their hands in joy. Now even they had a chance to be just like Sergeant Bahadur. Even the class teacher was excited.

Sergeant Bahadur went on, "Every road safety officer will get a jacket and a whistle like mine. But it is a very serious role to be a road safety officer. The safety and well being of every student and every child in the village is his or her responsibility. Furthermore, the officer will also be responsible for teaching the younger students the rules of road safety."

Every student in that class couldn't wait to fulfill his desire to be a road safety officer for a fortnight.









"Remember children, you will only help others to be road safe children when you yourself learn about road safety and act sensibly when near a road," said Sergeant Bahadur. He went on, "And for the first two weeks I select Raju as my road safety officer for his brilliant idea."

And Raju was a first-rate road safety officer. He wore his smart jacket and and stopped traffic with his whistle and flag whenever there were many children waiting to cross the road. What a treat it was to be a road safety officer.





## BEING PART OF THE ROAD SAFETY BRIGADE

Being part of your school's road safety brigade is a good way to learn and teach essential road safety rules. Volunteer to be a road safety officer and make a promise to help everyone you can to stay safe when near the road.



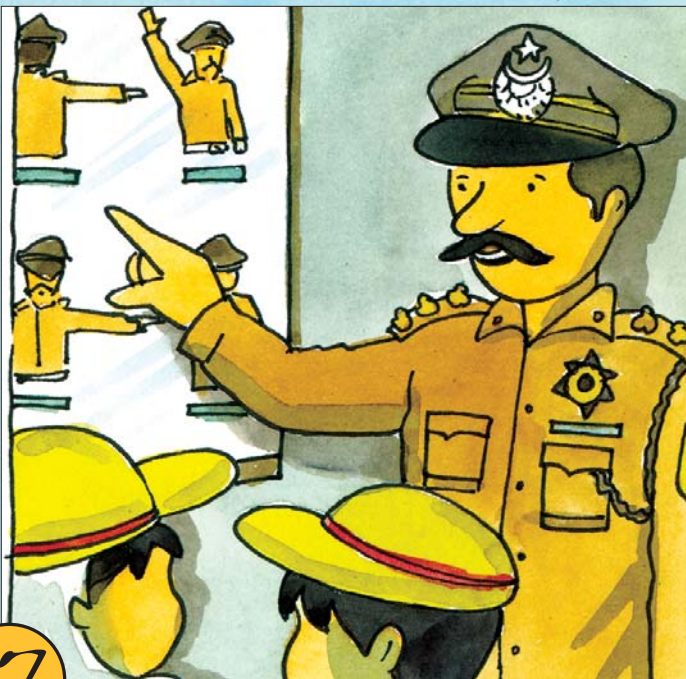
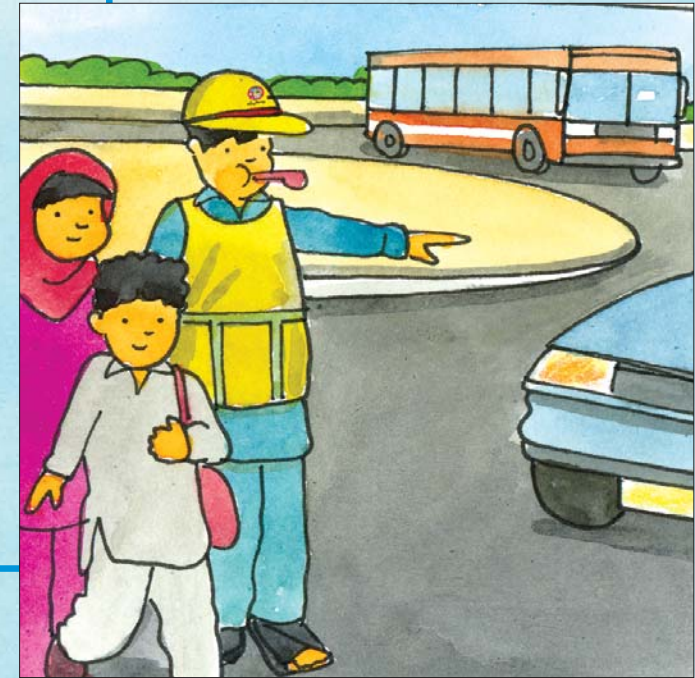
Divide your responsibilities among your road safety brigade so that everyone has a job to do



When schools starts or gets off make sure you help children cross the road safely.

When you see children crossing the road make sure you help them by slowing down traffic and then helping them get to the other side of the road.

Try and walk the smaller children of your school from school to home, teaching them basic road safety rules on the way.



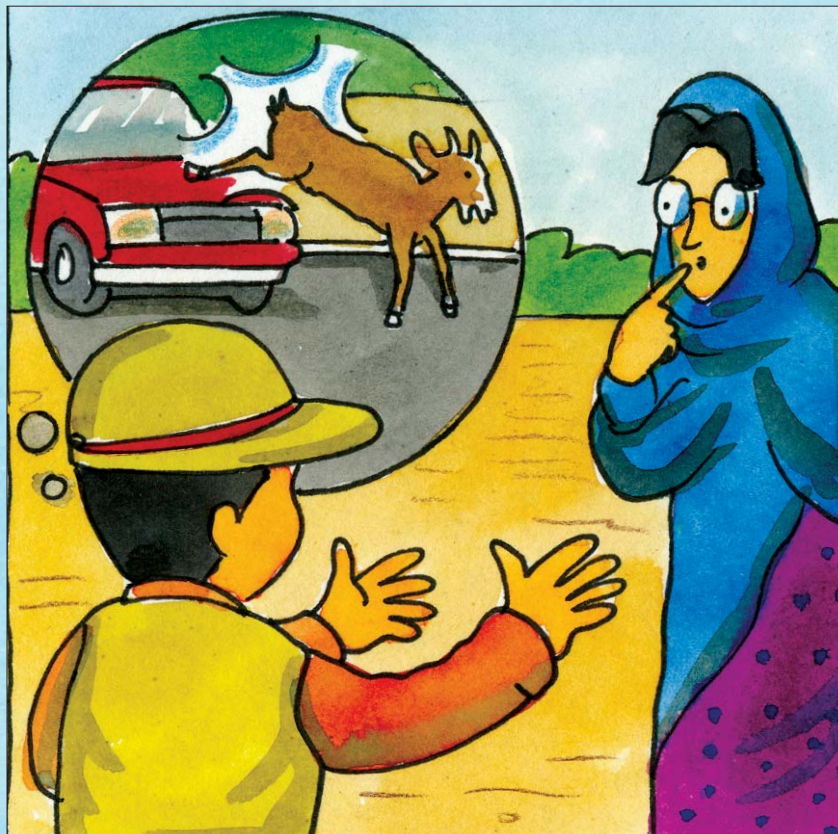
Being a road safety officer is a big responsibility. If you are a road safety officer make sure you know all the road safety rules to help children stay safe on the roads.

Every road safety officer is given special equipment to help her/him with her/his responsibilities. The jacket is used to be more visible whether it is daytime or dark. The badge is also used for visibility. The whistle is used to warn pedestrians and other road users of approaching traffic. Make sure you use your road safety equipment efficiently and responsibly



Identify areas from where children come to school and make sure you help them cross the dangerous roads and intersections that they come across.

Help all children learn the important rules of traffic and road safety. These rules can help save many lives.

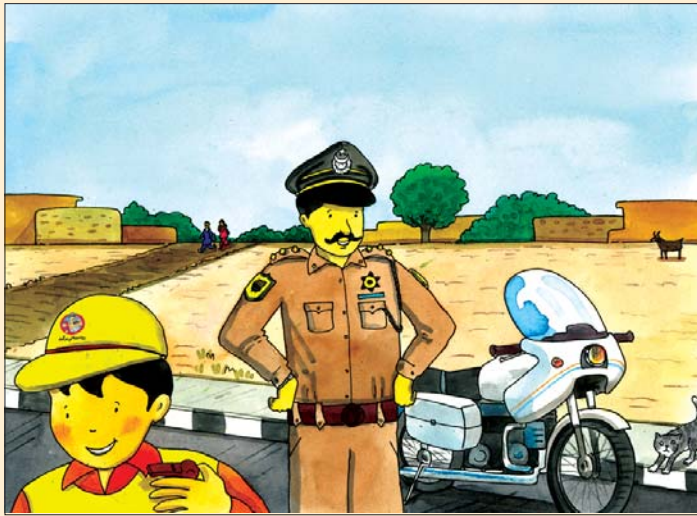


Help community members also learn the importance of road safety rules.

Help your teacher in organizing mela's, walks, dramas and other activities in your school that will help all children learn about road safety.

Try identifying traffic problems in your community, especially the problems around your school and discuss these problems with your teacher and head master/mistress to resolve these problems.



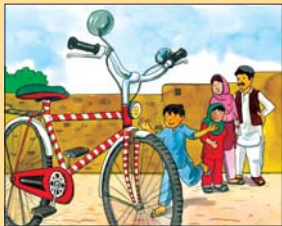


# Who is the stranger in the village?

This story talks about the idea of introducing road safety officers near high-traffic highways and other commonly used roads to help pedestrians and other road users stay safe. A road safety officer pays a visit to the village where Raju and Kiran live. The children are a little surprised when they see this uniform-clad stranger. Soon, they get to know this stranger, an upright and friendly officer named Sergeant Bahadur who is on a quest to help every child learn all they can to keep themselves safe on the roads.

The Road Safety Education Program is a joint program that is being implemented in 100 schools of high-traffic districts of Sindh by the Road Sector Development Directorate, Government of Sindh and the Sindh Education Foundation.

This story is part of a wonderful series of books that can help children learn more about keeping themselves safe on the streets. Read the whole series and be a road safe child.



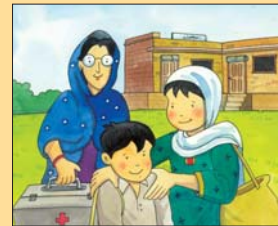
**Raju's New Cycle!**



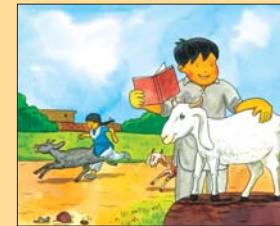
**Playing on the Road can be Fun but...**



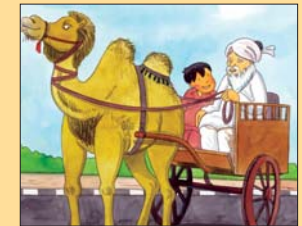
**Raju Learns Something New**



**Raju and his Injury**



**Bablu and his Cleverness**



**Raju and his Wonderful Dream**

Author: Youshey Zakiuddin | Illustrator: Adeel uz Zafar | Translator: Gul Baig GurGej | Composer: Khadim Hussain



**Sindh Education Foundation**  
Government of Sindh



**Road Sector Development Directorate**  
Works and Services Department  
Government of Sindh

**SINDH EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Plot 9, Block 7, Kehkashan, Clifton 5, Karachi - 75600  
Ph: (92-21) 111-424-111 (Ext: 216), Fax: (92-21) 9251652  
Email: [rsep@sef.org.pk](mailto:rsep@sef.org.pk)